

BRITISH--FRENCH--AMERICANS FIRMER GROUND

FIELD MARSHAL HAIG HAS BETTERED GENERAL POSITION

Neither Side in Picardy Had Won Decisive Victory During First Part of Yesterday's Fighting Which Continues—Germans Continue their Campaign in Flanders.

Yielding only slightly at the first shock of the German assault in the renewal of the drive in the great battle south of the Somme, the British and French-American lines stood firmly early yesterday against the desperate continuing assaults of the enemy.

On the ten-mile front south of the Somme where the intensive force of the blow has been concentrated the British lost on Wednesday Villers-Bretonneux and the French the village of Hangard-En-Santerre. Yesterday Field Marshal Haig's forces began to react strongly in the vicinity of the former place and they regained ground around it and considerably improved their general position for a time at least. Hangard has once more been in German possession during the Somme battle, and it changed hands twice in the present fighting before the French drew out of it and established themselves firmly on its western edge. The Germans have made repeated attempts to debouch from the place but each time the French were solidly in the way.

Fighting Continues.

The fighting is continuing today, with the Germans desperately struggling to make the considerable headway they must if they are to gain anything but relatively valueless local advantages. Thus the decision in the renewal of the battle is by no means yet with either side. The measure gains of the enemy, however, after a pause long enough for him to bring up his heaviest artillery, and when he must have been at the pinnacle of his strength may well be compared with the sweeping success achieved in the beginning of the battle last month, when he won miles of ground a day and captured tens of thousands of prisoners.

Busy in Flanders.

Meanwhile the Germans have not abandoned, even temporarily, their efforts on the Flanders battle front. Apparently they are centering their blows on the sector dominated by Mount Kemmel with the object of forcing the defenders from this bulwark. They attacked the French last night in the sector between the Baillies and after being repulsed returned to the attack today with assaults in the same sector and on the British front further east. The battle here was still in progress when the British official statement was issued this afternoon.

ROBERTS' HEALTH BILL IS PASSED

(Continued from page 1)
departure from the principles of responsible government, the Fosterite majority was sufficient to carry the section to the amendment passing twenty-one to eighteen.

Afternoon Session.

The afternoon was occupied in discussion of other features of the measure. The section dealing with regulation of certain private diseases took up much time. During the day Dr. Crockett, Dr. Campbell, Mr. Baxter, Mr. Murray and Mr. Tilley pointed out the many incongruities in the legislation and fought the more ridiculous sections, succeeding in some cases in having the desired result. The extent of the debt of gratitude the province owes to these gentlemen for their work in connection with the health bill will not be fully understood until the measure has been in operation for some time. The cost of its operation and its many absurdities, however, the measure will be as soon as it is proclaimed. Dr. Roberts is presumably happy, although in his bill he was unable to secure for himself an office of emolument under the crown. To that extent at least the opposition has succeeded in saving the public money.

Term "Minister" Defined.

When the public health bill came before committee of the whole house in the morning, with Mr. LeBlanc, Restigouche, in the chair, Hon. Dr. Roberts moved in amendment to sub-section 2 of section 2 of the bill that the term "minister" should mean "a member of the executive council designated by the lieutenant-governor-in-council to administer the act and who should serve without salary or remuneration." Mr. Baxter said that the amendment permitted the lieutenant-governor to name a minister who might already hold a portfolio of the cabinet or who might not. If a minister already held a portfolio was named it would be satisfactory, but if not, it would place a minister who did not have to go back to the people for re-election upon designation in charge of a department which would have the spending of from \$15,000 to \$20,000 of the provincial funds every year and as much more from the municipalities in the province. By such an amendment the government might technically escape from having to send the minister back to the people for approval if such a course was really but side-stepping the principles of responsible government.

Could Perpetuate Scheme.

If the government adopted such a principle and it became law there was nothing to prevent them coming back next year with another bill to provide that ministers in charge of other spending departments could be designated by the lieutenant-governor-in-council and by working without remuneration escape responsibility to the electorate. In such a case the

constitutional system of the country would break down. By serving without emolument or profit the minister could escape the letter of the election law but not its spirit for that law in spirit plainly meant that any man in charge of a spending department of the provincial service should go back to the people for approval. Responsible government had only been gained to the people after riots in Ontario and confusion in Nova Scotia. In New Brunswick it had been more easily accepted but this proposed change struck at the very root of responsible government and for that reason if for no other should not be sanctioned. In this phase it was not a question of public health or of the personnel of a minister to direct the department but the whole question of responsible government was involved and he advised the government to proceed with great care before they adopted such a change.

Hon. J. A. Murray.

Hon. J. A. Murray said when the bill was first before the House the chief criticism against it was that it tended to enlarge an already too heavy government. It had been urged in defense of the suggested amendment that the premier of the province was not obliged to go back to the people after accepting that office. That was true but the premier was not directly in charge of the department. Rather was he sort of a general superintendent of all with ministers under him who were responsible to the people. He took no objection to the principle of the bill but he decidedly protested against the principle involved in this section. The administration of the bureau of public health could well be attached to the duties of a portfolio holding minister and he suggested the provincial secretary-treasurer.

Responsible Government.

If they looked at the pictures on the wall in the legislative chamber they would recall the fights waged in this province for responsible government. And yet in 1918, years after those battles had been fought and won, this government propose to introduce a measure which would tend to break down a principle of responsible government was that any minister in control of a spending department of the province would be held back to the people for re-election. Premier Foster said he would not allow it to stand.

In England they were creating new departments of government every day and the ministers in charge of such departments were not obliged to go back to the people for re-election. Canada could well afford to follow the English precedent.

Consult People.

Mr. Murray replied that while not a constitutional lawyer he would say that if the premier was placed in charge of the health department or any other department involving the expenditure of public money he should consult the people upon appointment. Mr. Baxter then moved an amendment to the amendment to read that any member of the legislature except secretary-treasurer, minister of lands and mines, minister of public works or minister of agriculture who accepted the department of public health could not hold his seat in the legislature until he had gone back to the people for approval. That amendment to the amendment, Mr. Baxter said, placed the matter fairly and squarely before the House.

If any member of the government at present holding a portfolio took the duties of the new office he would not have to go to the people and consent by any other member of the

THREE LOSE LIVES WHEN STEAMER ST. PAUL SINKS

Big American Liner Overturns and Goes Down at Her Pier.

STEAMER WAS BEING REPAIRED

Vessel Will be Raised, But Damage to Interior Considerable.

An Atlantic Port, April 25.—The American Line steamship St. Paul, a famous passenger liner, overturned and sank at her pier here today while being warped into dock preparatory to loading for a trip to Europe. Three men probably lost their lives in the accident.

At the time the St. Paul was under steam, but was being brought in by tugs from a dry dock, where the past week she had been undergoing repairs. The steamer is now lying on her port side with about ten feet of her hull amidships above the water, and is completely submerged both fore and aft.

Large number of the men escaped by simply climbing over the rail and onto the exposed side of the vessel as it came up, while others leaped into the water and were picked up by the tugs.

Enters Coal Ports? One of the causes advanced for the accident which was supported by experienced marine men was that the ship, which was being warped into dock by tugs pushing, listed so far that water entered open coal ports, resulting in an overcoming of the centre of gravity.

Another explanation offered was that the ship's sea cocks might have been opened either by accident or design.

It was reported that it was necessary to cut holes with gas torches in the exposed side of the vessel in order to liberate some men who were caught below decks. Men on the deck of the St. Paul claimed that they heard tappings from workers entrapped inside.

A SUGGESTION.

The Farmers' and Dairyman's Association was in session at Fredericton today and it is said that a suggestion may be offered at the meeting that the farmers in the province be organized into a union in order to liberate some men who were caught below decks. Men on the deck of the St. Paul claimed that they heard tappings from workers entrapped inside.

FISHING EXODUS.

About fifty Grand Manan men have gone to Madaket Island, Port Elgin, Shediac, Bouchette or other North Shore points to engage in the annual herring fishing season. The men are not a war measure and there was no appointment of superintendents of registration who will select the registrars who will have charge of the registration in the 230 dominion federal constituencies. One registrar will be chosen for each constituency. T. Maritime Province superintendents are:

Mr. J. J. Trainor, Charlottetown, P. E. I., for Prince Edward Island. George E. Corbett, Annapolis Royal, for Nova Scotia. Charles Comden, Woodstock, N. B., for New Brunswick.

WOODSTOCK MAN HAD PNEUMONIA, NOT MURDERED

Coroner's Jury in Case of Lee McIntyre Returns Verdict that Deceased Died From that Disease—Dying Man Wanted Jack Mulherrin Prosecuted.

Woodstock, April 25.—When it was evident yesterday that Lee McIntyre would die, and while it was difficult to establish a case that Jack Mulherrin did the stabbing, Police Magistrate Holyoke and Robert L. Simms, representing the crown, went to the hospital to get the evidence of McIntyre. They were too late as the dying man was past giving evidence. Information was made by the relatives charging Jack Mulherrin with the crime of murder and the preliminary examination will be held before Magistrate Holyoke on Monday morning.

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F. N. McCrae, Sherbrooke, called the attention of the minister to unnecessary over-manning of the department.

Mr. Carvell admitted he was having more trouble with the over-manning problem in connection with cutting down expenses than with anything else. It was a hard thing to tell a man who, perhaps, had been in the government employ for a long time, but whose services were really unnecessary that he was no longer needed. He had been engaged in getting reliable reports on every office of the department. These reports showed that a large number of men were not earning their salaries.

WOODSTOCK MAN ON MAN POWER BOARD
Ottawa, April 25.—Announcement was made tonight by the registration board, which will take the man and woman power census of Canada, of the appointment of superintendents of registration who will select the registrars who will have charge of the registration in the 230 dominion federal constituencies. One registrar will be chosen for each constituency. T. Maritime Province superintendents are:

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CASUALTIES.
Ottawa, April 25.—Tonight's list of fifty-nine casualties reports twenty Canadian soldiers killed in action, seven died of wounds, three died, one missing and believed to have been killed, twenty-one wounded, two gassed and five ill. Maritime names:

Killed in action: R. Stewart, St. John, N. B. Died of wounds: P. J. Amburg, Halifax, N. S. Wounded: F. J. Thibodeau, Moncton, N. B. Machine Gun Company. Died of wounds: C. W. Peake, Halifax, N. S.

N. B. MEN ARRIVE.
Several New Brunswick men arrived at a St. Lawrence port yesterday from overseas.

IN PERPETUUM.
Grant them eternal rest, O moonlight tender, And wind-swept vales, mourn where they ever sleep; Days deep with woe abound; Divine Defender, Come with Thy radiance blest to all who weep.

The foreign winds in vain are daily sighing, Grieve not; chant litanies o'er every spot; May their sweet tones resound with prayer, thus trying, To waft compassion to us o'er the wave.

They fell for Freedom, Ah! yes! brave, immortal, For them the day has dawned, O Radiance blest, Shine on them; open wide, ye princely portals Of Paradise, Grant them eternal rest.

—Allan Wood.

ST. STEPHEN MEN HONOR MR. BOUTON

Popular Hotel Manager, Who Will Enter Canadian Aviation Corps, Presented with Wrist Watch.

Special to The Standard.
St. Stephen, April 25.—Wilfred R. Bouton, B. A., who has been the popular manager of the Queen Hotel, of which J. William Smith is proprietor, since last summer, is leaving in the morning for his home in West Arifat, C. B., and has enlisted in the Aviation Corps of the Canadian. The young man was just out of college and has felt the call of the colors for some time. He remained at his post here while his employer was in the Southern States for the benefit of his impaired health, and is now leaving to do what he can for the cause of Empire.

Mr. Bouton has made many friends on the border, and some of them of the male persuasion gathered in the Queen this evening just to tell him what they think of him and to present him with a token of their esteem in the form of a handsome wrist watch.

H. M. Webber presided and remarks were made by Michael McDade, of St. John, but in whom St. Stephen has come to feel a proprietary interest; Councillor Arthur R. McKenzie, Charles H. Elliott, barrister; Manager Smith, of the Royal Bank; Manager Gordon, of the Bank of Nova Scotia, and by Mr. Bouton.

Mr. Bouton said he would gladly accept the amendment proposed by the Premier and congratulated Mr. Foster upon his decision. He was not so sure that a committee of the house would have been the best way to deal with the charges, but that was the only tribunal open to him as a member of the house to ask for an attack this morning over a seven-mile front on the Meteren-Baillet-Wytschaete line.

Great Performance.
British Headquarters in France, April 25. (Via Reuters' Ottawa Agency)—Our success at Villers-Bretonneux, beginning with the splendid counter-attack of last night, has been a great performance. It cost the Germans terribly dear to get a footing in the village.

The German tanks did not particularly distinguish themselves. The whole five concentrated upon a single British "female." On the arrival of a small mobile pattern which did fearful execution among a fresh enemy division which had not yet entered the battle since arriving on the western front. These tanks charged the massed troops again and again, looking on returning as if they had been wallowing in a vast shambles.

Bull Rushing Tactics.
Reports indicate that the bull-rushing tactics of the enemy masses carried them through our defensive line in places and possibly some German parties progressed toward the crest of Mount Kemmel, but I am told this afternoon that the French hold both the Kemmel Villages, and the hill, so it seems the danger to this important strategic key position has been averted. The Germans appreciate the importance of Kemmel so fully that bitter and prolonged fighting in this zone is anticipated.

St. John's, N. B., April 25.—The assembly today considered the inscription bill and passed the second reading unanimously. It also passed to the same stage of the bill extending the life of parliament.

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AMERICANS IN GREAT BATTLE NOW RAGING

Fighting Bravely Side by Side with French and British to Stem Hun Advance.

GERMANS LOSE AT VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

French Expel Enemy Forces in Regyville Sector in the Woivre.

Was Leading Men Across a Narrow Gangway at Zeebrugge when He Fell.

Paris, April 25.—American soldiers wounded in the great battle which is now being waged are already arriving at the rear. American wounded and sick to the number of one hundred and twenty-eight have reached one hospital. They are from units engaged in fighting side by side with the French and British in stemming the German advance.

British Firm.
London, April 25.—A despatch to Reuters' Limited from British headquarters in France says that it is reported that the British have re-established their line east of Villers-Bretonneux. The rumor that the Germans have reached the crest of Mont Kemmel is not confirmed. Four, and possibly six, German divisions delivered an attack this morning over a seven-mile front on the Meteren-Baillet-Wytschaete line.

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Business Is Fine

That is the impression you get of the man who always dresses well.

Our Spring Overcoats make a special appeal to business men who like to dress with a certain degree of conservative smartness.

The styles prepared are the Chesterfield, slip on and belters. The most favored are grays, browns, greens and black.

The prices afford a wide range of choice—\$15 to \$35.

Gilmour's, 68 King St.

A Good Place to Buy Good clothes.

MINIATURE ALMANAC.
April—Phases of the Moon.

Last Quarter	4th 9h. 33m. a.m.
New Moon	11th 0h. 34m. a.m.
First Quarter	17th midnight
Full Moon	26th 4h. 5m. a.m.

Day	W.	D.	W.	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
26	6.25	7.18	12.51	3.25	6.48	19.03					
27	6.24	8.19	1.06	13.27	7.22	19.37					
28	6.12	8.21	1.42	14.04	7.57	20.13					
29	6.30	8.22	2.14	14.42	8.33	20.82					
30	6.19	8.23	2.56	15.23	9.12	21.35					

THE WEATHER.

Toronto, April 25.—Pressure is high over the Great Lakes and the northwestern portion of the continent and relatively low over the lower Mississippi Valley and the southwest states. The weather has been fair and comparatively good today in nearly all parts of the Dominion.

City	Min.	Max.
Victoria	40	68
Vancouver	36	60
Kamloops	40	66
Edmonton	24	46
Calgary	32	56
Battleford	30	48
Moosjawa	35	44
Regina	34	46
Winnipeg	40	48
Port Nelson	14	38
Port Arthur	28	58
London	22	54
Toronto	26	50
Kingston	28	50
Ottawa	28	54
Montreal	32	50
Quebec	28	58
St. John	32	46
Halifax	34	50
Ferry Sound	36	56

Maritime—Moderate to fresh north-west and west winds; fair and cool.

Washington, April 25.—Northern New England—Fair Friday and probably Saturday; warmer Saturday, moderate northwest winds.

OPERA HOUSE.

Something brand new in the trained animal line is the feature opening at the Opera House tonight on the regular weekly change of vaudeville. In the appearance of the celebrated "Bob," the boxing kangaroo. Have you ever seen a real live kangaroo? Possibly you have seen pictures of these funny looking creatures, all hind legs and tail. They are natives of Australia and there are only a very few of them in captivity on this side of the water. Bob appears in an act with the Gordon Brothers, the famous lighting bag punchers.

Other good features on the program include Scott and Carroll, blackface comedy and singing artists; Fred and Annie Pelet, in a comedy juggling and eccentric dancing act, "Fun at an Inn"; Bidwell and Rice, comedy song and instrumental artists; Vm. Beauty and Health, Physical Culture Marvels and the sexual chapter of the serial drama, The Mystery Ship. Two complete performances tonight, at 7.30 and 9—usual two shows tomorrow afternoon and evening. Popular prices.

DIED.

TOOLE—Suddenly, April 25th, James E., leaving his wife and one brother and one sister to mourn. Funeral, Saturday, 2.30 p. m., from his late residence, 46 Mecklenburg street.